

Prof Karangwa called on those elected across the country to serve Rwandans diligently in order to solve the problems of the local people.

Earlier, on August 19th, leaders of communal settlements, known as *Imidugudu*, were equally elected in more than 14,768 Imidugudu across the country. Those elections saw aspirants filling the posts of arbitrators who were elected at cell level on August 22nd. (R. Kigali 22/8: BBC Mon.)

• The new Justice Minister, **Tharcisse Karugarama**, the Prosecutor General **Martin Ngoga**, and his deputy **Alphonse Hitiyaremye** were sworn in on August 7th. Karugarama replaces **Edda Mukabagwiza** who was dropped on August 4th. (*The New Times*, Kigali 8/8)

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE

Presidential Vote

The incumbent unsurprisingly wins the election easily.

Incumbent **Fradique de Menezes** has won Sao Tome's presidential election with 60% of the vote, eliminating the need for a run-off, according to preliminary results released by the National Electoral Commission.

Challengers **Patrice Trovoada**, son of former President **Miguel Trovoada**, and **Nilo Guimaraes**, an accounting manager from Sao Tome's large diaspora, won 38.5% and 0.59% respectively.

International observers said the July 30th voting was peaceful, free and transparent. "Now the time has come for work, reflection and unity", said de Menezes in a national address from Yon Gato central square in the capital Sao Tome. He represents the alliance of the Force for Change Democratic Movement-Party for Democratic Convergence (**MDFM-PCD**).

De Menezes will preside over a country of 140,000 people spread across a handful of islands in the Gulf of Guinea. More than half of the archipelago's people live in extreme poverty and 30% of the working-age population is unemployed. The country is struggling under the burden of a \$300m external debt.

The discovery of oil offshore in recent years has fuelled hopes that the archipelago's people will begin to enjoy a better standard of living, while at the same time avoid the corruption and conflict that have plagued their oil-rich neighbours. Western countries, such as the United States, which are seeking additional sources of petroleum, have boosted ties with the archipelago.

Sao Tome e Principe

Presidential Election Results

Following the July 30th presidential election, the results are as follows:

Registered voters	91,119
Voter turnout	59,178 (64.9%)
Invalid votes	1,638
Total valid votes	57,540

Candidate	No. of Votes	% of Votes
Fradique de Menezes (MDFM-PL) [MDFM-PCD]*	34,859	60.58%
Patrice Trovoada (ADI)**	22,339	38.82%
Nilo Guimaraes	342	0.59%

*Fradique de Menezes was also supported by the Social Liberal Party (PLS) and the Christian Democratic Front (FDC).

**Patrice Trovoada was also supported by the following parties: Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe-Social Democratic Party (MLSTP-PSD), Union of Democrats for Citizenship and Development (UDD), Democratic Coalition of the Opposition (CODO), Sao Tomean Workers Party (PTS), Popular Progress Party (PPP), Democratic Renewal Party (PRD), Social Renewal Party (PSR) and the National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP). (*African Elections Database*)

Because of its strategic position in the Gulf of Guinea, the **United States** also plans to set up a Central Africa observatory in Sao Tome e Principe on illicit human trafficking and drug smuggling.

For his second five-year term, de Menezes has promised to tackle unemployment, health and education. He has also pledged to address World Bank-supported projects relating to electricity, water and sanitation.

Sao Tome e Principe is negotiating with the Bretton Woods institutions for the cancellation of its debt in 2007. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have managed the country's economic stabilisation.

Many people in Sao Tome rely on remittances from abroad to survive, as the country's revenues from cocoa exports only amount to some \$5m annually. Oil production remains insufficient to finance the national budget, which is supported by international aid.

In the past 15 years, Sao Tome e Principe's political environment has been fraught with disagreements between the presidency and the government over interpretation of their respective constitutional roles. This has held up the smooth functioning of government.

De Menezes has vowed to help improve the country's fractured political environment. "In politics we say bad things to each other but I hope that one day the people of Sao Tome will discuss things differently, with respect, and will not defame and slander each other anymore", he said.

The National Assembly in 2005 reviewed the constitution with the objective to reduce drastically the powers of the presidency. The revised constitution takes away the president's

power to dissolve parliament during a political crisis without the approval of the State Council. (*IRIN*, UN 2/8) **Presidential campaign p. 16712A**

Senegal

Wade Again?

The *UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)* reveal that President **Abdoulaye Wade** has publicly confirmed for the first time that he will run for a new term in the 2007 presidential elections. "It is obvious – and I won't hesitate – that the Senegalese people want me to stand, my party wants me to stand, so I will stand", Wade, who is almost 80 years of age, said on July 28th.

Wade, who is founder and leader of the Senegal Democratic Party (**PSD**), swept to power in 2000 as head of a coalition that broke the chain of domination since independence in 1960 by Senegal's Socialist Party (**PS**). "I have the force to stand and continue my work as the President of Senegal but the decision rests with the Senegalese people", said Wade, referring to elections set for February 27th 2007.

Wade is nearing the end of his first seven-year term as head of state, but a constitutional amendment passed since he took office will limit any future term to five years. (*IRIN*, UN 28/7)

ZAMBIA

Presidential Campaign

President Mwanawasa is ahead of his rival Michael Sata.

When Chief Justice **Ernest Sakala** closed the presidential nominations for the September 28th elections, five